

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the third full paragraph on page 24 with the following amended paragraph:**

~~Figs. 3~~Figs. 2 (eluent: 5 mM tartaric acid/1 mM pyridine-2,6-dicarboxylic acid/24 mM boric acid) and 4 (eluent: 16 mM phosphoric acid) show the chromatograms obtained. In ~~Figs. 3~~Figs. 2 and 4, the peak 1 is  $\text{Li}^+$ , the peak 2 is  $\text{Na}^+$ , the peak 3 is  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , the peak 4 is  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , the peak 5 is  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and the peak 6 is  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .